

# PATENT SPECIFICATION

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DRAWINGS ATTACHED

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## (54) IMPROVEMENTS IN PLANT PROTECTORS

(71) I, JOHN ERLING RASMUSSEN, of Ledreborg Alle, Gentofte, Denmark, a Danish subject, do hereby declare the invention, for which I pray that a patent may be granted to me, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to a plant protector of the kind (hereinafter called "the kind referred to" used for protecting one or more plants rooted in a rooting medium with or without a flowerpot. Plant or flower protectors of the kind referred to are often used for the protection of flowers or plants growing in flowerpots during raising in a nursery garden and during transportation and display for sale in a store.

Several different protectors of the kind referred to or wrappings for the protection of flowers or plants growing in flowerpots are known, but these protectors are rather complicated, and some of these protectors constitute fully closed wrappings in which the flowers or the plants may be preserved in some way, for instance cooled down. Flower protectors constructed as bags of transparent material and of smaller or greater sizes and sealed by folding or taping the bags above the flowers or the plants are also known. By that procedure the bags receive some folds so that the flowers or the plants in the bags are not clearly visible, which is disadvantageous for instance when they are displayed for sale in a shop. Furthermore it is not possible to water or air the flowers or a plant in such a closed bag, which is disadvantageous because it is necessary for the flowers or the plant to be kept moist and able to "breathe" in order to keep fresh and retain an attractive appearance. It is furthermore often troublesome to place flowers or a bushy plant growing in a flowerpot in such a bag.

The present invention is therefore intended to provide an improved plant or flower protector of the kind referred to by which the above-mentioned disadvantages are remedied.

According to the invention a plant

protector of the kind referred to is characterised in that it is in the form of an open-topped cup made of a single piece of wholly or partially transparent flexible film of synthetic plastics material, the lower part of the cup accommodating the roots and said rooting medium and the upper edge of the cup being in an inclined plane so that there is a substantial difference in height between the highest part and the lowest part of the said edge.

In such a protector, which is open at the top, the flowers or the plant may "breathe" freely and may be sprayed with water and thereby kept fresh as long as possible and retain an attractive appearance. On account of its simple formation the protector has a plain transparent outside, so that the flowers or the plant inside are clearly visible, and on account of the inclined disposition of the upper edge part it is also easy from above to see the flowers or the plant, which is of advantage in display for sale in shops or in super-markets where the customer has to make his own choice. By placing several protectors side-by-side, and with the high side of one protector facing the low side of another protector, the flowers or the plants therein are very well protected by the protectors. The formation of the protector is so simple that the costs of production are very small, which is very important as any rise in price caused by the sale of flowers or a plant in such a protector must be very small.

The invention is defined in the claims hereinafter, and how it may be performed is further described below with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which by way of example:—

Fig. 1 shows a plant or flower protector in accordance with the invention, with a flowerpot therein, with flowers or a plant, in front view.

Fig. 2 shows the same protector in side elevation.

Fig. 3 shows the same protector in a sectional elevation with a cover located above the flowerpot, and

Fig. 4 shows the said cover in top view.

The illustrated protector is formed as a cup

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1 with an open top, made of a single piece of plastics material film. The cup has a plain and transparent surface, and in the lower part of the cup a flowerpot 2 is located, with flowers or a plant 3 therein. The upper edge 4 of the protector is situated in an inclined plane in relation to its centre axis, so that the two parts 5 and 6 lying opposite to each other are of substantially different heights. The highest part of the protector has a flap or loop or turning 7 to form a handle for carrying the protector with the flowerpot 2 with flowers or the plant 3 therein. When the flower protector with the flowers or the plant 3 therein is displayed for sale in a shop or in a super-market it has a disk-formed cover 8 located above the flowerpot 2. From the central part of the cover 8 radiate slits or cuts 9 to form flaps 10. One of these slits or cuts 9 is extended to the peripheral edge 11 of the cover 8 so that the cover 8 may be easily turned in round the flowers or the stalk of the plant, and thus the flaps 10 are placed close to the stalk for providing a good cover for the earth in the flowerpot 2. It may sometimes be advantageous to remove the flowerpot 2 from the flowers or the plant and the adhering earth and to save the flowerpot, after which the flowers or the plant with earth are placed in the protector, which serves then at the same time as a flowerpot. In that case the lower part of the protector, on a level with a flowerpot is made non-transparent by means of a coating agent or a deblooming process or a painting or the like so as to obscure the rooting medium therein from view. As shown and preferred the upper edge of the cup 1 is in a plane inclined at an angle of 45° to the horizontal, but this angle may conveniently be between 35° and 55°. The cup 1 has a plane horizontal circular base and widens from its base to its upper edge 4. Thus the illustrated protector is in the form of the open-topped cup 1 made of a single piece of wholly or partially transparent flexible film or synthetic plastics material, the lower part of the cup being adapted to accommodate the roots and rooting medium and the upper edge of the cup being in an inclined plane so that there is a substantial difference in height between the highest part and the lowest part of the said edge.

Various modifications are possible, for example the cup may be printed with decorative and/or informative matter.

#### WHAT I CLAIM IS:—

1. A plant protector of the kind used for protecting one or more plants rooted in a rooting medium with or without a flowerpot, characterised in that it is in the form of an open-topped cup made of a single piece of wholly or partially transparent flexible film of synthetic plastics material, the lower part of the cup accommodating the roots and said rooting medium at the upper edge of the cup being in an inclined plane so that there is a substantial difference in height between the highest part and the lowest part of the said edge.
2. A protector according to Claim 1, wherein at the said highest part there is a flap or loop to serve as a handle for carrying the protector.
3. A protector according to Claim 1 or 2, comprising a cover to extend over the rooting medium, the cover having slits radiating from its middle to form flaps, one of said slits extending to the periphery of the cover to allow the cover to be placed around a plant stem.
4. A protector according to Claim 1 or 2 or 3, wherein the lower part of the cup is coated or otherwise rendered non-transparent so as to obscure rooting medium therein from view.
5. A protector according to any of Claims 1 to 4, wherein the upper edge of the cup is in a plane inclined at an angle of between 35° and 55° to the horizontal.
6. A protector according to any of Claims 1 to 5, wherein the cup widens from its base to its upper edge.
7. A plant protector substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

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Fig. 1

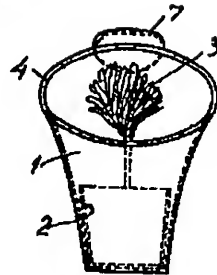


Fig. 2

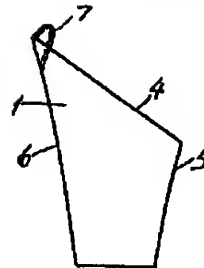


Fig. 3

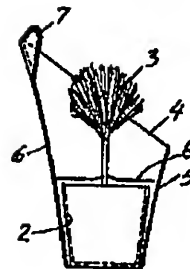


Fig. 4

